

U.S. Serial No. 10/590,065

Response to the Office Action of April 6, 2009

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully considered the Office action dated April 6, 2009. By way of the forgoing amendments, claims 252 and 273 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-102 are pending and at issue. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 252 and 273 were rejected for nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. patent No. 7,380,532. As noted above, claims 252 and 273 have been canceled without prejudice. The foregoing amendments should eliminate any rejection of the claims based upon nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants note with appreciation the examiner's indication that claims 1-102 are allowed. As indicated above, claims 252 and 273 have been canceled, thus leaving claims 1-102 as the only remaining claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof are respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

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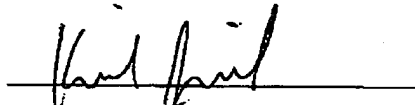
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 12-0400.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 6, 2009


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